





**THE** Undersigned Insurance Offices have agreed to

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## COUNTRY NEWS.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)  
(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.)

**ALBURY, THURSDAY.**  
Diphtheria in a very virulent form is reported from various country districts. A very bad case is now in the hospital, and the family of the teacher at the Black Range Public School are reported to be suffering from the same disease. The school has been closed. Other cases are reported from Jindera and other small centres of population.

It is proposed at an early date, by the local farmers, to give a banquet at Doodie Coonah in acknowledgment of the services rendered by their members. The Ministry, as well as the leading members of the Opposition, will be invited. Jindera, Gregory, Burumbett, and Walla Walla will join in the demonstration.

**BATHURST, THURSDAY.**  
A meeting was held at the Town Hall to-night for the purpose of forming a Progress Association for Bathurst. Dr. Spencer occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of representative men. It was decided to form an association called the Bathurst Progress Association, with the object of furthering the best interests of the town and district. Mr. C. H. Beaver was elected secretary, and Mr. W. H. Hudson treasurer. A committee was also elected.

**BEGA, THURSDAY.**  
The Bega Reserve Rifle Company, over 40 strong, were to have commenced their first annual military course to-day under Warrant Officer Higgins, who has been here for a week, but up to the present they have not received either their arms or ammunition, which applied for a month ago. They must, therefore, be disappointed. But this is merely an annoyance of no Government plans are upset by departmental inaction. It is hoped that ammunition borrowed from another corps may arrive to-morrow so that the members may commence practice with a few snail rifles on hand.

**COWLING, THURSDAY.**  
There was a considerable snowfall on Friday morning at the lands office to-day, it being the first snowfall under the new Act. The following portions were taken up:—Mr. A. Alfred, 210 acres; J. Swindle and W. Hiddle, 640 acres; S. A. Tucker, 40 acres; J. Hennessy, 44 acres; R. Lester, 694 acres; M. Kerin, 640 acres; J. Swindle and W. Hiddle, 70 acres.

**DUBBO, THURSDAY.**  
The thermometer reached 90° during the last two days, but it has been cold at night. The summer has been very cold as yet.

Great disappointment is expressed at the action of the Railway Commissioners in reference to starting the summer trains before the holidays. The feeling is that they should be run during the Christmas week.

A distressing fatality is reported from Teralia. A child named Weeks, living at Teralia, fell into a vessel containing boiling milk, and was so badly scalded that it died while returning from the hospital. At a meeting of the committee appointed to endeavour to effect a settlement of the Cathedral dispute last night proposals for a settlement were drawn up for submission to the Cathedral Chapter. The proposals were:—

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A local paper states that a narrow gauge car on a railway track on the Northern line took a serious fall last week. It also states that the line impaled have been suspended, and that an official inquiry will be held.

**GRAFTON, THURSDAY.**  
One thousand and ninety acres were selected here to-day. The new regulations in reference to the selection of land are not meeting with approval, and the costs of survey are considered excessive.

The two-year-old colt, Goldenrod, has been purchased from Mr. T. L. Smith, Grafton, by a Sydney sportsman, and will be shipped on Saturday. To-day a draft of purebred horses, consisting of a landed from the Sydney Hotel, for Mr. C. Tindal, Ramonville station. They comprise eight bays, four cobs and calves, and will be a valuable acquisition to the stock of the district.

**KIAMA, THURSDAY.**  
At a meeting of the Kiama Municipal Council to-day, a letter was read from the Department of Works to the member for Kiama in connection with a portion of the main road between Kiama and Jamberoo, the Minister had ordered that line. The clerk laid before the council a return showing the amount of money spent in connection with the Corporation's works. The sum is £2,800, of which more than £2,000 is for interest. Rails and sleepers have been removed from Teralia, and the stone from the Sydney Hotel, for Mr. C. Tindal, Ramonville station. They comprise eight bays, four cobs and calves, and will be a valuable acquisition to the stock of the district.

The financial statement given by the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. R. B. Smith, with great interest here, and is favourably commented on. General satisfaction is expressed at the improved condition of the colony's finances since the present administration took office.

So far as vegetation is concerned, this district is now in a very flourishing state, the luxuriant growth of crops and pasture is everywhere to be seen. The only drawback to the prosperity of the dairy farmers is the low price of the staple product, butter.

**MOULONG, THURSDAY.**  
Last night Mr. G. H. Tappet, J.P., delivered a lecture in aid of the Moulong Hospital, the subject being "The Value of the Human Body." The lecture was very good; the lecturer was very heartily received, and gave a very interesting account of his trip.

Mr. Thomas Parlow, son of Mr. J. T. Parlow, was, on Tuesday evening, his father was taken to Friday in the paddock, and arrived at the hospital at 10 p.m. He was a young man much respected.

Mr. James Bowler, one of the oldest residents of Moulong, died last night, after a lingering illness, aged 72 years.

The weather is very warm. Haymaking is in full swing, and labouring men are very scarce.

The committee have altered the date of the Berrima District Show to the 12th, 13th, and 14th of March, in order to clash with the Goulburn show.

It is anticipated that the town will be lighted with the electric light by Christmas.

**NEWCASTLE, THURSDAY.**  
At the inquest on the body of the man killed by a fall of coal, a verdict of accidental death was returned.

**PARKES, THURSDAY.**  
At the local lands office yesterday, 13 residential leases of 10 acres, under the new Land Act. The farmers are very busy harvesting.

**PORT MACQUARIE, THURSDAY.**  
The land court presided over by Mr. James Vernon, commenced its sittings to-day, and will continue the business to-morrow. There are about 30 cases on the list for sittings to-day.

The new Act is generally approved of, but the survey fee is considered rather heavy and will be a serious burden. The survey fee is considered rather heavy and will be a serious burden. The survey fee is considered rather heavy and will be a serious burden.

The Wagon Agricultural and Horticultural Union have decided to hold an exhibition of farm and garden produce only at Sydney, on the 10th, 11th, and 12th of January. The exhibition is for the purpose of raising money for the benefit of the Union.

The election of an agent for the railway is the subject of much discussion. The agent is to be chosen by the shareholders of the railway.

## SPORTING INTELLIGENCE.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)  
(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.)

**THE TURF.**  
A meeting of the A. J. C. committee was held yesterday afternoon, when the plan of the new steeplechase course was adopted. The new track runs inside of and parallel with the course proper, training, tan, and sand tracks, and some slight alterations have been made to the position of the hurdles. The programme for the year is as follows:—

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## CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

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